

before you plan to graduate so that you have sufficient time to work on your dissertation and interview. If you require a new visa or to transfer a visa, you should allow sufficient time for processing by NIEHS, NIH, other government agencies, and for travel to your new position.

Benefits:

What health benefits are available for fellows at NIEHS?

Most fellows will be appointed as IRTA or Visiting Fellows. NIH pays for health insurance for these fellows through the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES); information about the plan is at http://www.faes.org/health_insurance3.htm. NIH will pay for individual or family coverage at no cost to the fellow. This benefit is not taxable. Optional dental coverage is available for purchase through FAES.

Are retirement benefits available to fellows?

Retirement benefits are only available to those fellows hired as “Research Fellows”.

Am I eligible for the NIH Educational Loan Repayment program?

Again, this is dependent on your employment status. Most NIH fellows are in non-employee training positions and would not be eligible for this program, which is only open to employees of NIH. Research Fellows would be eligible; however, there is a minimum commitment to NIH service/employment which some Research Fellows may not be able to meet due to the 5/8 Year Rule time constraints on the length of time they may spend in a training position. For more information, go to the NIH Loan Repayment Programs homepage at <http://lrp.info.nih.gov/HomePage.aspx>

Funding resources:

Will I have to apply for a grant to fund my position? Are funding mechanisms available to postdocs while at NIEHS?

Generally, NIEHS postdoctoral positions are fully funded and are not dependent on the PI funding your position with grant money. This makes your position stable for the duration of your training. Some positions may be shared by two PIs or funded by special mechanisms. When you apply for the position, ask about the resources the PI will use to fund your position.

If you would like experience with writing grant applications, there are ways for you to apply for grant funding. Not all granting agencies will let you use their money at a government institution, so check before you

apply. NIH has compiled a non-comprehensive list of agencies that will let you use their fellowship funding at an NIH institution; this list can be found at <http://www1.od.nih.gov/oir/sourcebook/ir-communicatns/pdf/fellowships.htm>

In addition, NIH fellows are able to apply for the new NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00) while they are at NIEHS. This new transitional award provides funding for 1–2 years of mentored research as a postdoc, and up to 3 years of support once the fellow has obtained an independent research position. Non-US citizens are eligible to apply for this program. For more information, go to <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-133.html>

Living in the Triangle area:

Information about moving to and living in the area surrounding NIEHS (“The Triangle”) is available in the “Moving to RTP” guide at <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/ofcd/fellows-p.htm> Included in this guide is information on finding housing, finding schools and childcare, getting a driver’s license, links to local maps, and information for international fellows.